AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information collecting system comprising:

at least one terminal including an information input device, an information display unit and a communication circuit; and

an information processing center that is connected to said terminal via a network, and includes an application server, said application server including:

a receiving section for receiving input information transmitted from said terminal to said information processing center via the network;

an information processing section for making a decision as to the information received, and for constructing a picture to be displayed on the terminal in response to a decision result; and

a transmitting section for transmitting the picture generated by said information processing section to said terminal;

wherein said terminal includes a circuit for detecting power-on of the terminal, and for automatically activating said communication circuit to transmit power-on information to said information processing center,

wherein said information processing center further comprises a database server, a file server and a WWW server,

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wherein said information processing section in said application server carries out information processing by exchanging information with these servers,

wherein said receiving section of said application server receives the power-on information sent from said terminal via the network, said information processing section of said application server generates an initial picture for the terminal in response to the information received, and said transmitting section in said application server transmits the initial picture to the terminal,

wherein said initial picture including a display portion for receiving user input of identification information to be transmitted to said information processing section, and, in response to receiving said user input of identification information, said information processing section to send to the terminal a subsequent picture including a plurality of menu items for user selection, including a menu item for a picture displayed on the terminal immediately before previous power-off of the terminal, and said information processing section to send to the terminal, for display, information associated with at least one of the plurality of menu items in response to said user selection,

wherein said information processing section of said application server further comprises:

a client application memory for storing in advance necessary information including identifying information of a user; and

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a client display screen constructor for constructing a client display picture from the necessary information read out of said client application memory and information supplied from other servers,

wherein said application server further comprises:

a client display picture storage for storing the client display picture generated by said client display screen constructor; and

a differential detector for detecting a difference between the client display picture stored in said client display picture storage and a client display picture newly generated by said client display screen constructor, and

wherein said transmitting section transmits only differential information detected by said differential detector to said terminal.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended)   The information collecting system according to claim 6 1, wherein said terminal comprises a picture combiner for combining the differential

information sent from said transmitting section with picture information currently displayed by the terminal.

8. (currently amended)   The information collecting system according to claim 2̶ 1, wherein said terminal is connected to a LAN (Local Area Network), and said LAN is connected to said network.

9. (previously presented)   The information collecting system according to claim 8, further comprising:

a local server connected between said LAN and said network, wherein said local server includes a database server, a file server, a WWW server and an application server for carrying out information processing using information exchanged with these servers, and

wherein said local server performs a processing associated with predetermined requested information in the information transmitted from said terminal, transmits a processing result to said terminal, and transmits remaining requested information to said information processing center via said network without processing the remaining requested information.

10. (original) The information collecting system according to claim 1, wherein said information processing center carries out processing associated with predetermined requested information in the information transmitted from said terminal, and transmits remaining requested information to another information processing center via said network without processing the remaining requested information.

11. (original) The information collecting system according to claim 9, wherein said application server in said local server comprises at least one of a word processing application and a spreadsheet application.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method of providing information collection services, comprising:

receiving power-on information from at least one of a plurality of terminals to generate an initial picture for the at least one terminal in response to the information received, wherein said initial picture including a display portion for receiving user input of identification information;

receiving said user input of identification information to generate a subsequent picture for the at least one terminal including a plurality of menu items for user selection, including a menu item for a picture displayed on the terminal immediately before previous power-off of the terminal; and

receiving said user selection of a menu item to generate information associated with the selected menu item for display on the terminal;

constructing said subsequent picture and storing said subsequent picture into memory;

detecting a difference between the subsequent picture stored in memory and a picture newly generated to display said information associated with the selected menu item; and

transmitting only differential information associated with said detected difference to the terminal.

16. (cancelled)